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1908

Forty-
Seventh
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**MECHANICS'
..INSTITUTE..**

San
Francisco

California

1902

Mechanics' Institute LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

31 POST STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

From three hundred to six hundred volumes added monthly.
Daily list of additions is posted in the circulation department.
New Books of general interest or special merit are added as soon as published, and duplicated in accordance with the demand.
Members' requests for books not already in the Library receive careful consideration.
The Reference Department is especially strong in mechanical and engineering works, including complete sets of the principal American and Foreign scientific periodicals. It contains, also, the United States and the British Patent Office Reports, complete, and the catalogue cards of the United States Congressional Library.
The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the title of 500 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

The Mechanics' Institute Bulletin, containing lists of new books received, book reviews, etc., published every month.
A Music Department has recently been added to the Library, consisting of a collection of vocal and instrumental sheet music, scores of standard operas, etc., which are circulated as books.

HOURS OF THE LIBRARY

Library	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.
" (Sundays)	10 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Reading and Chess Rooms	8 a. m. to 10 p. m.
" " " (Sundays) . . .	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee	\$ 1 00
Quarterly Dues	1 50
Life Membership	50 00

Rooms Open for Inspection Day and Evening.

FORTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

Year Ending February 28, 1902

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

1902

Presidents of the Mechanics' Institute from Its Organization.

1855	—BENJAMIN HEYWOOD	1865	—CHARLES M. PLUM
1855	—JOHN SIME	1866	—H. J. BOOTH
1856	—R. MATHESON	1867	—GEORGE K. GLUYAS
1857-58	—JOHN SIME	1868-77	—A. S. HALLIDIE
1859	—GEORGE COFRAN	1878-79	—IRVING M. SCOTT
1860	—THOMAS TENNENT	1880-88	—P. B. CORNWALL
1861	—JOHN P. BUCKLEY	1889-91	—DAVID KERR
1862	—B. H. FREEMAN	1892	—IRWIN C. STUMP
1863-64	—JOSEPH BRITTON	1893-95	—A. S. HALLIDIE
1896-1900	—ERNEST A. DENICKE		
1901	—SAMUEL C. IRVING		

OFFICERS.

Board of Trustees.

SAMUEL C. IRVING	- - - - -	President
RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG	- - - - -	Vice-President
JAMES K. COSGRAVE	- - - - -	Recording Secretary
GEO. H. WALLIS	- - - - -	Corresponding Secretary
GEORGE BEANSTON	-	ALPHEUS BULL
GEO. D. CLARK	-	GEO. F. DAY
P. J. HEALY	-	L. R. MEAD
ROBERT W. NEAL	-	JAMES G. SPAULDING
OTTO VON GELDERN	-	LUTHER WAGONER

JOSEPH M. CUMMING	- - - - -	Secretary
	FIRST NATIONAL BANK,	Treasurer.

Standing Committees.

Finance	- - - - -	MEAD, BULL, CLARK
Buildings and Repairs	- - - - -	BULL, DAY, WAGONER
Library	- - - - -	TAUSSIG, BEANSTON, WALLIS
Lectures and Classes	- - - - -	VON GELDERN, COSGRAVE, CLARK
Printing and Advertising	- - - - -	COSGRAVE, SPAULDING, VON GELDERN
Pavilion	- - - - -	WAGONER, NEAL, MEAD
Folsom Street Lot	- - - - -	WALLIS, BEANSTON, DAY
Management	-	CLARK, COSGRAVE, BULL, WALLIS, WAGONER
Exhibits	- - - - -	SPAULDING, VON GELDERN, TAUSSIG
Machinery	- - - - -	DAY, WALLIS, MEAD
Art	- - - - -	NEAL, HEALY, SPAULDING
Music	- - - - -	HEALY, DAY, BULL
Tickets and Admissions	- - - - -	TAUSSIG, NEAL, HEALY

The President is ex-officio, a member of all Committees.

LIBRARY.

31 Post Street.

FREDERICK J. TEGGART - - - - - Librarian

Assistants.

R. D. COLQUHOUN	MISS JANE L. SHEPARD
W. H. WOOLCOCK	F. L. HAMMOND
GEO. H. MAYERS	CHESTER BLABON
MISS STELLA HUNTINGTON	HARLOW ATHERTON
WM. JENNINGS	

Janitors.

F. E. HARRIS	A. H. WINSLOW
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

The 47th Annual Report of the President of the Board of Trustees is herewith submitted for your consideration. The year just ended has been in many respects one of satisfaction to the Trustees, and I hope has merited the approbation of the thinking members of the Institute. During the prior year a feeling of unrest and gloomy anticipation that seemed to threaten the existence of the Institute had been developed. The growing success of the Free Library under its able management and the imposing gift of Andrew Carnegie appeared to many to be the handwriting on the wall that marked the ignominious end of the Mechanics' Institute. And so pessimistic did some of the members become that the transfer of the properties of the Institute to the Free Library was seriously advocated. The Board of Trustees did not however share these gloomy views, did not believe the Institute was a decadent institution, but rather felt there was a great future in store and took hold of affairs in an enthusiastic, energetic and business-like manner.

A policy of progress was adopted. That their efforts have been crowned by success is manifest in the reports that have been submitted you by the Librarian and Secretary, and by the general good feeling and interest shown by you in more frequent attendance at the Library, at meetings and at lectures. The full force and effect of their work and self-sacrifice, for the proper management of the Institute requires much time and thought, will be more manifest in the years to come, perhaps, than at the present time. While there has been a slight

decrease in membership, the increase in the amount received from dues shows that the present membership is more prompt to meet its obligations. There has been a weeding out of delinquents long carried on our books and to-day our rolls are in a cleaner and healthier condition than they have been in years. The greater interest of members in the Library is manifest in the very large increase in circulation—over forty per cent. This, I believe, has been induced by the improvement in desk management, by the more liberal purchase of books, and by the general air of prosperity evidenced by fresh paint, clean walls and improved janitor service.

The finances of the Institute were well handled by an intelligent committee—two vexatious lawsuits were settled for small amounts, expenses were limited to necessities, though niggardliness was carefully avoided. The receipts were greater than the expenses, and the debts of the Institute inherited by the present Board were not increased.

Folsom Street lot, that great drain on our income, using up the dues of one thousand members for interest, is to-day made a thing of the past, soon to be only a memory and a warning against future speculations in land. A tender of a certified check for \$90,000.00 was made me this afternoon accompanied by a formal demand for the delivery of a deed to the property—the rest is a matter of form and will be completed by the Trustees at their first meeting.* Instead of Five Hundred dollars a month for the purchase of books as at present, One Thousand dollars will be available for such and kindred purposes. The members will certainly appreciate a more liberal supply of the latest books—a supply that will tend in a great measure to satisfy that demand that has been patient and long suffering for many months past.

The net returns from the Pavilion Block for the past year have been large, the largest in fact in the history of the Institute, outside of the years of successful Fairs—totaling

* The sale of the lot was completed at a special meeting held immediately before the annual meeting, and the action of the Trustees in selling the lot was ratified at the annual meeting.

nearly Nine Thousand dollars. This property was offered to the City as a site for the Free Public Library for the sum of \$750,000.00. The option given the City expired the beginning of this month and has not been renewed. While I believe the Institute does not wish to act selfishly, at the same time it is evident that the value of this property has materially increased since the offer was made the City, and in view of the fact that in the near future a railroad terminus will be established near it, a million dollars does not seem too great a sum to fix as the selling price of that magnificent piece of property.

The interior of the Post street premises have been renovated in a measure—a hall available for meetings and lectures provided, while those members who frequent the reading and chess rooms have been made as comfortable as the present building permits. Other changes are contemplated looking toward the improvement and betterment of our surroundings. With a lecture hall to offer in addition to our other features, it became possible to secure the affiliation of societies that made the giving of lectures a special feature. Two such societies, The Technical Society of the Pacific Coast and the California Association of Stationary Engineers, have already affiliated and three others of prominence in the community have made application for affiliation. The members added to the Institute roll through these societies are of the highest character and tend to strengthen the already good standing which the Mechanics' Institute has in this community. The incoming of these societies was made the occasion for a reception in their honor and so successful was it in promoting a feeling of good-fellowship, that other receptions are in contemplation. A Chess and Checker Club has been formed on liberal lines, with a view of promoting interest in these games of scientific skill and mental acumen and of increasing the fame which this Institute has acquired through the prominence of its players.

A series of lectures covering a wide range of subjects was given during the winter months. That these lectures were enjoyed was made manifest through the large attendance of

members and their friends. The lecturers as a rule gave their services free of charge, feeling that the appreciation shown by the Institute was ample recompense for their labors.

The class rooms have been refurnished with desks, and increased lighting facilities provided. The improvements were necessary to secure proper accommodations for an important and growing branch of our membership. Recognizing the importance of our position in the Library world, our Library has been made the depository of the Catalogue Cards issued by the Library of Congress. This distinction is more manifest when it is considered that the number of such depositories is limited and that ours will probably be the only one established on the Coast.

This in brief is the history of the past year—a year made full of promise and hope by the energy of the Trustees and the co-operation of the members.

Death during the year removed three active workers from our roll—Joseph Britton, who had honorably filled the office of President of the Board of Trustees, Oscar Lewis, an ex-Trustee and an earnest friend of the Institute, and Alfred Cridge. Though the latter had never filled an office, or even aspired to one, no member had the welfare and advancement of the Institute more at heart than had this quiet, unassuming old man. We mourn our loss, but we sustain ourselves with the hope that the examples of their lives will stimulate a zeal in those who remain with us for the advancement of the Institute.

During the year several matters looking toward the better management of the affairs of the Institute and to establishing a closer bond between the members and the Trustees have been considered by me. The first and most important is a complete revision of the Constitution and By-Laws. Through amendments and changes, some of them made without due consideration, our fundamental law is not up to the requirements of an institution of the size and importance of the Mechanics' Institute. The method of receiving ballots should, in my opinion,

be changed so that the total votes received should be more representative of our large membership than is manifest by the present system. The record of the last three years shows that less than seven hundred members voted in 1900, less than six hundred in 1901 and less than eight hundred in the election of a few days ago, and this out of a total membership of nearly four thousand.

I would suggest that the letter system that has proven so successful in the elections of the Technical Society be adopted. It is safe, secret and effective in securing a large representation, and in interesting the voting members. That our members would be in accord is shown by the returns that were received when an expression of opinion in regard to the disposal of our properties was asked by postal card. Sixteen hundred and twenty-one replies were received—a total nearly equal to the total of votes polled for Trustees in the last three elections. This method would do away with the enthusiastic and noisy solicitors for votes that crowd our halls and stairways on Election Days and make things generally disagreeable for the ladies and reading members, and would be productive of greater interest in a greater number of members.

I would suggest that members of thirty years' standing be made life members. It would be an inducement for members to retain their standing and would be a fitting reward for their loyalty. Our finances will soon permit of this change. Many of those whose labor has built up this Institute have, through stress of circumstances, been compelled to give up their membership at a time of life when it would be most useful and enjoyable to them. This is manifestly unfair and should be remedied.

In view of the increased purchases of books made possible by the sale of Folsom Street lot, it seems to me good business policy to increase the number of books allowed each member

from two to three. Such a change would take us out of the range of competition by the Mercantile and Free Public Libraries.

In closing permit me to express my thanks for the hearty co-operation of my fellow Trustees and for the vote of confidence given my administration by the members at the last election.

Submitted,

S. C. IRVING,

President Board of Trustees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

San Francisco, Mar. 4, 1902.

Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute—

Gentlemen: I have the honor to present below financial statement for the year ending February 28, 1902:

Cash on hand March 1, 1901.....	\$1,039.17
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RECEIPTS.

Library—

Dues	\$18,602.00
Entrance fees..	713.00
Life memberships	100.00
Books—	
Fines (1921) \$294.65	
Extras (4306) 430.60	
Paid for (1330) 193.45	918.70

Class fees.	84.00
Library Bulletin.	626.10
Donations	130.00
Mutual saving bank....	3,900.00
Sundry receipts.....	87.55 \$25,161.35

Pavilion—

Rents.....	9,864.60
Hayes St. rents.....	4,598.25
Sale of old materials....	24.10
Repaid by lessees—	
Gas.....	\$687.85
Lighting....	163.00
Mantels.....	12.00
	862.85
Electricity.....	86.70
Damage.....	67.35
Water	20.00

Telephone	9.50
Scavenger	10.00
License.	60.00
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Folsom St. Lot—	
Receipts	2,210.00
Bills Payable	4,000.00
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	\$46,974.70
	<hr/>
	\$48,013.87
 EXPENDITURES.	
Library—	
Books	\$ 6,287.05
" Lick Fund	492.67
Binding	1,976.49
Periodicals	1,980.90
Music	13.00
Classes	602.00
Expense	1,427.34
Fuel	220.27
Furniture	271.53
Insurance	461.50
Lectures—	
Printing	\$13.50
Fees, Lect'rs	30.00
	<hr/>
43.50	
Library Bulletin	823.54
Lighting	1,067.10
Printing and stationery	1,338.94
Repairs	392.50
Salaries	8,676.00
Taxes	1,448.92
Water	211.60
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	\$27,734.85
Pavilion—	
Salary and labor	\$ 953.75
Repairs	98.31
Glazing	34.45

Hardware and supplies..	40.13
Taxes...	3,358.57
Insurance	683.50
Water...	192.10
Gas	646.15
Lighting..	147.00
Mantels	79.50
Electricity	70.00
Telephone	88.85
Refund of rent.....	100.00
License	94.00
Scavenger	39.00
Sundries	2.00
Water Hayes St. houses	95.70
Repairs " " "	110.40
	\$ 6,833.41
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Folsom St. Lot—

Interest	\$ 6,000.00
Insurance	100.00
Repairs.	157.05
Taxes	793.69
Water	6.95
Preparing grounds...	155.40
Refund of rent.....	50.00
Sundry	10.00
	\$ 7,273.09
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General Accounts—

Salary	\$ 1,800.00
Interest	1,413.50
Profit and loss	1,553.25
	\$ 4,766.75
	\$46,608.10
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Mar. 1, 1902. Cash on hand.	1,405.77
	<hr/>
	\$48,013.87

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

	Net Recs.	Net Expenditures.
Library—		
Receipts.....	\$25,161.35	
Expenditures.....	27,734.85	\$2,573.50
Pavilion—		
Receipts	15,603.35	
Expenditures.....	6,833.41	8,769.94
Folsom St. Lot—		
Receipts.....	2,210.00	
Expenditures.....	7,273.09	5,063.09
General—		
Receipts.....	4,000.00	
Expenditures.....	4,766.75	766.75
Increase in coin....		366.60
	\$ 8,769.94	\$ 8,769.94

STATEMENT OF LICK FUND.

Balance Mar. 1, 1901.....	\$ 2,622.09
Less books paid for.....	492.67
	2,129.42
Interest at the rate of 7%..	163.34
Balance Mar. 1, 1902..	\$ 2,292.76

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

	Assets.
Post street property.....	\$163,585.30
Pavilion block.....	251,717.54
Folsom street lot.....	205,139.21
Books.....	126,205.00
Bindings	26,160.09
Periodicals.....	24,887.70
Music.	114.53

Furniture	13,567.46
Cash in Secretary's hands..	100.00
" " Librarian's hands..	50.00
Cash in Bank	1,405.77
	\$812,932.60
Liabilities.	
Stock..	\$404,660.80
Profit and loss.....	279,979.04
Lick Fund.....	2,292.76
Bills payable.	
Mortgage on Pavilion block.....	100,000.00
Due First National Bank	26,000.00
	\$812,932.60

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. CUMMING,
Secretary.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

San Francisco, March 8, 1902.

Board of Trustees Mechanics' Institute—

Gentlemen: I have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Institute for the quarter ending February 28, 1902, and find them correct.

All vouchers for the quarter are properly approved and are now on file in the Secretary's office. The balance in bank and on hand agrees with the amount as shown by the cash book.

I enclose trial balance of the ledger, February 28, 1902.

Respectfully submitted,

P. VAN PELT,
Auditor.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

San Francisco, March 4, 1902.

To the President and Board of Trustees—

Gentlemen: I have the honor to present the forty-seventh annual report of the work and business of the library for the year ending February 28, 1902.

MEMBERSHIP.

Number reported February 28, 1901	3,807
New members, subscription	713
New members, life	2
Reinstated	1 716

Withdrawn	4,523 823

Membership February 28, 1902	3,700

BOOKS.

The accessions of books for the year have been 3,829 volumes, classified as below:

Bibliography	330	History	145
Philosophy	43	Theology	68
Sociology	559	Useful Arts	422
Natural Sciences	190	Travel	82
Fine Arts	192	Literature	219
Fiction	1,467	Biography	112

These were assigned to

Reference Department	1,286
Circulation	2,543

These were acquired by:

Purchase	2,578
Gift	828
Binding	423

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

The following table shows the numerical strength of the Library:

Number of volumes reported Feb. 28, 1901	85,191
Accessions, Feb. 28, 1901 to Feb. 28, 1902	3,829
Lost and paid for, or sold	1,320
Exchanged	86
Worn out and destroyed	430 1,836 1,993
Present number in Library	87,184

In addition to the 646 new books, periodicals and pamphlets bound, there were 843 old books re-bound.

CIRCULATION.

The Library was open 303 days during the year; 185,509 volumes were issued for home use, a daily average of 613. The circulation shows an increase over that of the preceding year of 55,000.

LECTURES.

The following lectures have been delivered during the year:

December 14, 1901, "Adelbert Von Chamisso," by Prof. Albin Putzker, M. A.

December 21, 1901, "Eye Diseases, What the Public Should Know of Them," by Dr. C. S. G. Nagel.

December 28, 1901, "Japan—The Land of the Rising Sun," by Mr. Henry Payot. (Illustrated.)

January 11, 1902, "The Fight for American Liberty" in German Literature, by Prof. Julius Goebel.

January 18, 1902, "A Trip to Peking and the Great Wall of China," (illustrated) by Prof. John Fryer, LL. D. Part 1.

January 25, 1902, "A Trip to Peking and the Great Wall of China," (illustrated) by Prof. John Fryer, LL. D. Part 2.

February 1, 1902, "Art in Landscape Gardening," (illustrated) by Oscar A. Prager-Windshagen, B. A.

February 8, "Fog Phenomena," (illustrated) by Alexander McAdie.

February 15, 1902, "Goethe's Faust," by Prof. Albin Putzker.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK J. TEGGART,
Librarian.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

APPENDIX I—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS—1892-1902.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURES.	Membership	
		Number of volumes	Accessions, vols....
		Fairs	
		General Accounts....	
		Folsom Street.....	
		Pavilion.....	
		Net Excess or Deficiency.....	
		Total.....	
		Salaries...	
		Periodic's & Binding	
		Books.....	
		Total.....	
		Rents.....	
		Library...	
YEAR ENDING.....			
March 1st.....			

* \$14,911.25 was expended for repairs to library building.

† Not included in total of \$25,129.03.

— Excess.

— Deficiency.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institute was held at the Mechanics' Institute Library Building, Saturday evening, March 8, 1902.

The meeting was called to order by President Samuel C. Irving, the annual reports of the officers were read, and after the transaction of other business, the following Trustees elected at the last annual election were installed in office, viz.: George Beanston, E. P. Heald, Samuel C. Irving, James H. Lyons, Lewis R. Mead, Rudolph J. Taussig, Geo. H. Wallis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Immediately after adjournment of the annual meeting the Board of Trustees met and elected the following officers:

President—Rudolph J. Taussig.

Vice-President—Geo. H. Wallis.

Recording Secretary—James G. Spaulding.

Corresponding Secretary—James H. Lyons.

Treasurer—First National Bank.